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2. Impressions of the Soviet Army and Preparedness for War

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Military Installations in Tashkent\*

1. Tashkent is the headquarters of the Turkestan Military District, commanding general of which is Army General Ivan Yefimovich Petrov. 50X1-HUM
2. Two different lieutenant generals were observed once in the city; soldiers were rarely seen in the city streets. However, on one occasion about 400 students from the Military Academy, in which more than 2,000 are enrolled, were seen walking on the streets in three companies dressed as paratroopers. Several times about 20 students of the Military Academy were seen being drilled by one senior-grade first lieutenant and one second lieutenant. There is also a Military Cadet School in Tashkent in which more than 1,000 students are enrolled.
3. Barracks were seen in Tashkent for an infantry regiment, an artillery regiment, an engineering unit equipped with a communications car, an air battalion (?), and an air training unit. Once, 10 to 15 tanks were observed rolling through the city streets. It is believed that this tank unit is attached to the infantry regiment.
4. Tashkent has two airfields: one civilian and one military. It is believed, however, that both of them are being used for military purposes at present. The planes observed flying over the city were always training planes for beginners. Once in a while, a fighter plane was seen on maneuvers. Also observed were a Douglas transport, a Douglas A-30, and a Martin B-26, which are believed to be courier planes.

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Impressions of the Soviet Army

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Army units in the vicinity of Tashkent and MVD troops

The troops stationed in the Tashkent vicinity were mostly soldiers who had been in active service only since the beginning of 1949. Draftees between 25 and 26 years of age seem to have been released.

6. The Uzbeks and other Asiatic peoples tend to shy away from being drafted. Only about 20 or 30 percent of all officers in the Tashkent troops are Uzbeks. An Uzbek field grade officer is very rare; Uzbek officers usually have the rank of captain or lower. The proportion of Asiatics to European Russians in the military schools in Tashkent is one to four.

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7. Nevertheless, in case of war, the Soviet Union can count on peoples such as the Uzbeks, Tadzhiks, and Turkmen for manpower. They were instrumental in the fight against Germany and their youth has been trained to a point where it can be relied upon. these peoples can be of more help to the Soviets

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8. Since the troops near Tashkent use the Russian language officially, interpreters are used to converse with Uzbeks who do not know Russian. Classes are held for these Uzbeks to teach them to understand Russian, and European Russian officers study the Uzbek language in order to be able to converse with the Uzbek soldiers in their native tongue.

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9. military discipline was fine; orders of superiors were obeyed rigidly, in cases so rigidly that it seemed foolish to outsiders. On the other hand, some indications that discipline outside the barracks was slack follow:

- a. Pistols were sold on the side by the soldiers. In 1947, officers as well as enlisted men offered to sell pistols for 600 to 800 rubles.

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- b. cases where a guard had stolen a pistol and hidden it in a corner among a pile of bricks or lumber.

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- c. There were many cases of violence against superior officers, mostly for private reasons it is believed.

- d. There were many cases of murder by pistol. There were several cases where it was rumored that an officer had fired a pistol in a fight. In case of a fight, the party who first resorted to violence was held responsible and was punished and demoted.

Soviet Preparedness for War

10. The good feeling toward America, which existed until the beginning of 1947, has been reversed by anti-American propaganda. The word Amerikanski has come to be used to describe something inferior. Thus, the question "Are you Amerikanski?" means "Are you a fool?". Such a war would be settled quickly in favor of the Soviet Union, which is completely prepared for war.

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11. the morale of the Russian people (presumably European Russians) is high, their love for their country is burning, and they are "drunk over the victory of the last war and ready for another one". A feeling of laziness and neglect was prevalent in 1946 and 1947, but the improvement of living conditions in 1948 and 1949 brought a corresponding improvement in morale so that now the people go to work with a will. Government propaganda, which stirs up the people and appeals to their nationalism, seems to have a great effect on their morale. The youth are always singing the militaristic songs which have become a fad since the end of the war. They are in a receptive condition to undergo military training.

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12. [ ] dislike of war [ ]  
is prevalent among the laborers and [ ] the Government appeal to this  
desire for peace in order to induce the workers to produce more.

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13. On the negative side of Soviet preparedness is the shortage of man-  
power resulting from World War II. This was still evident in 1949,  
[ ] Skilled technicians and leaders are  
lacking in industry. At present, labor is being concentrated in  
heavy industry, mining, and farming with the result that industries  
such as the building of factory housing are suffering from an acute  
shortage of manpower. To ease the shortage, farmers and office  
workers are being forced to work during their leisure hours and  
women and old people are being put to work. But even this does not  
make up the deficiency. [ ]  
PWs are being detained because of the labor shortage.

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14. Delivery of farming products to the government is being carried out  
according to plan and the black market dealings in these products  
has decreased so that the price of rice in the market place is lower.  
However, total output of farming products has not yet reached the  
pre-war level. To compensate for the labor shortage, the use of  
machinery is being encouraged. Near the city of Tashkent, for  
instance, the sowing of wheat was observed being done by airplane.

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